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EXAMINER

COLBERT, ELLA

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/731,359	Applicant(s) JEBENS ET AL.	
	Examiner Ella Colbert	Art Unit 3694	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 104-112 and 121-126 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 104-112 and 121-126 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/28/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 104-112 and 121-126 are pending. Claims 104, 108, 111, 112, 122-126 have been amended in this communication filed 6/14/07 entered as Response After Non-Final Action and Request for Extension of Time.
2. The IDS file 6/28/07 has been considered and entered.
3. The claim objections have been overcome by Applicants' amendment to the claims and are hereby withdrawn.
4. The 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejections have been overcome by Applicants' amendment to the claims and convincing arguments and are hereby withdrawn. However, there are still remaining 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejections as set forth here below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 104, 108, 110, 112, 122, and 124 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 104 recites "means for allowing ...". The usage of the term "allowing" is not a positive recitation in the claim limitation. Claims 111 and 121 have a similar problem. Claim 111 uses "permitting" and claim 121 uses "allowing". The usage of the terms "permitting" and "allowing" in claim limitations are not positive recitations making the claim limitation indefinite.

Claims 108, 110, 112, 122, and 124 have an issue with the usage of "adapted to" clause(s). Claim scope is not limited by claim language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed, or by claim language that does not limit a claim to a particular structure. However, examples of claim language, although not exhaustive, that raises a question to the limiting effect of the language in a claim are: (A) "adapted to" or "adapted for" clauses; (B) "wherein" clauses; and (C) "whereby" clauses. MPEP 2111.04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 104-112 and 121-126 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (US 5,666,215) Fredlund et al, hereafter Fredlund in view of (US 5,153,936) Morris et al, hereafter Morris.

With respect to claims 104 and 121, Fredlund teaches, an electronic storage facility (col. 2, lines 28-31 and col. 3, lines 32-36) for providing storage for high resolution digital images (col. 3, lines 63-67) of a plurality of unrelated image providers, at least some of the high resolution digital images stored in the electronic storage facility (col. 4, lines 10-66) being used to develop corresponding low resolution copies, each high resolution digital image having a higher bandwidth communication requirement than each of the corresponding low resolution copies,

the electronic storage facility storing the high resolution digital images of a first one of the image providers,

such that the high resolution digital images of the first image provider can only be accessed by an authorized user identified by the first image provider,

and such that the high resolution digital images of the first image provider are can only be accessed by authorized users identified by the first image (col. 6, lines 10-33 and fig. 2(34 & 38); means for allowing the authorized user to download the low resolution copy corresponding to one of the high resolution digital images of the first image provider from the electronic storage facility to a first location (col. 6, lines 50-63, col. 8, lines 16-27, and fig. 6 (112 & 118); and means for electronically routing the high resolution digital image to a printer in response to a request from the authorized user (col. 8, lines 45-61).

Fredlund did not teach, means for notifying an authorized user identified by the first image provider that the authorized user has been authorized to download a low resolution copy corresponding to one of the high resolution digital image, wherein the notifying means transmits at least a portion of a pathname associated with the low resolution copy of the authorized user.

Morris disclosed, means for notifying an authorized user identified by the first image provider that the authorized user has been authorized to download a low resolution copy corresponding to one of the high resolution digital image, wherein the notifying means transmits at least a portion of a pathname associated with the low resolution copy of the authorized user(col. 1, lines 63-67 and col. 2, lines 1-4). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

modify in Fredlund with the teachings of Morris because such a modification would allow Fredlund to have a message as an identification of the user and/or identification of the digital image to which the third party has been granted access with the images including downloading a low resolution copy of the high resolution image with the message including an electronic address (URL designation for a World Wide Web site on the Internet).

With respect to claim 105, Fredlund teaches, further comprising image handling means for processing the high resolution digital images to develop the corresponding low resolution copies (bonus prints) (col. 3, lines 64-67, col. 6, lines 23-29, and col. 8, lines 45-51).

With respect to claim 106, Fredlund did not teach, further comprising a mail database, the mail database including a conventional address for the authorized user, but it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a mail database and to modify in Fredlund because such a modification would allow Fredlund to have a place to store the collected mail. A database by definition is a collection of data stored on a computer storage medium, such as a disk, that can be used for more than one purpose.

With respect to claim 107, Fredlund and Morris did not teach, further comprising a search engine for searching among digital images stored in the storage device, but it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a search engine and to modify in Fredlund because such a modification would allow Fredlund to have a computer program that searches through

Art Unit: 3694

large amounts of text or other data which is well known in the art.

With respect to claim 108, Fredlund teaches, a storage device (col. 4, lines 34- 36) and a transmitter for transmitting at least a portion of a pathname to the first authorized user via the Internet (col. 2, lines 28-30 and lines 33-42 and col. 5, lines 20- 31). Fredlund and Morris did not teach, a mail server and a router but it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Fredlund to include a mail server and a router to perform the steps of claim 108 in view of Fredlund's modem and interactive cable TV network and because a mail server would allow Fredlund to have the ability to provide mail services to another computer (called a client) and to connect to two or more networks.

This independent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claim 104.

With respect to claim 109, Fredlund did not teach, wherein the digital images are input to the system by the first image provider via a communication device.

Morris disclosed, wherein the digital images are input to the system by the first image provider via a communication device (col. 3, lines 44-67 and col. 4, lines 1-8). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have to modify in Fredlund with the teachings of Morris because such a modification would allow Fredlund to communications means (such as one or more modems or communications cards) and one or more digital processors for loading the digital images into the system.

With respect to claim 110, Fredlund teaches, an image handler (col. 2, lines 28- 34 and lines 42-44) for processing the digital images input by the first image provider, the image handler being adapted to develop low resolution images of the digital images received from the first image provider and to store both the digital images received from the first image provider and the low resolution images thereof in the storage device in an addressable fashion for future searching (col. 4, lines 34-36 and lines 46-50).

With respect to claims 111 & 126, Fredlund teaches, storing a high resolution and a low resolution copy of each of a first plurality of digital images provided by a first image provider in an electronically searchable format on a storage device (col. 4, lines 19-21). These independent claims are rejected for the similar rationale given above for claim 108.

With respect to claim 112, Fredlund teaches, a storage device for storing digital images received from a first digital image provider and a second digital image provider (col. 3, lines 32-36). Fredlund and Morris did not teach, a job order developer responsive to inputs received from the first user for developing a job order which includes at least one high resolution copy of a digital image contained in the subset and identified by the first user and a user identifier for discriminating between users communicating with system to control user access to the digital images stored in the storage device, the user identifier limiting access to the digital images provided by the first digital image provider to at least one user identified by the first digital image provider, wherein the digital images provided by the first digital image provider are transparent to all users except users identified by the first digital image provider, but it would have been obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify in Fredlund because such a modification would allow Fredlund to have a high resolution copy of the digital image which can be transmitted by an automatic e-mail notification to the third parties which have been granted access rights.

This independent claim has also rejected for the similar rationale given above for claims 106-108.

With respect to claim 122, this independent claim is also rejected for the similar rationale given above for claim 112.

With respect to claim 123, this independent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claims 104-112 and 121-122.

With respect to claim 124, this independent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claims 108 and 112.

With respect to claim 125, this independent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claims 104 and 121.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wheeler et al (US 5,200,993) disclosed a public telephone network with a distributed imaging system.

Inquiries


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 571-272-6741.

Art Unit: 3694

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday,
5:30AM-3:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

August 30, 2007


ELLA COLBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER